

MODERN

COMICS

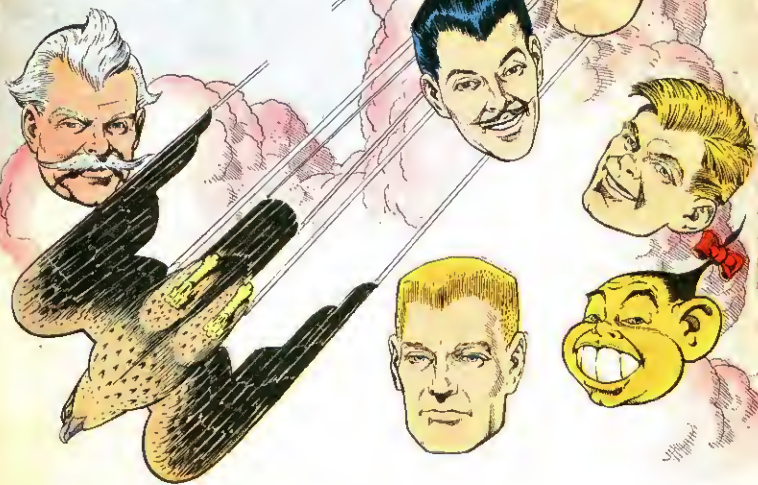
APRIL
No. 72

10¢

BLACKHAWK

battles

**THE BANDIT LORD,
BLACKBEARD!**





WEB COMIC
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A
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JOWETT
STUDENT
WHO WAS
NAMED
AMERICA'S
FIRST
PRIZE-
WINNER FOR
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PERFORMANCE



SEE
FLAME
Champion
Borough
Athlete of
Great Britain.
Says he: "I
am every-
thing to
Jowett's
method." And
at this point
—have recorded
the name of
the Jowett
Course!

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Blackhawk



Ever on guard against injustice and tyranny, the **BLACKHAWKS** pit their strength against the vicious bandit lord of a terrorized city... the **BLACKHAWKS** versus **BLACKBEARD!**

In a lonely and remote spot, a secret broadcasting station sends out powerful radio impulses across the world....

CALLING ALL BLACKHAWKS! CALLING ALL BLACKHAWKS!



... Clear to Blackhawk Island

BLACKHAWKS! HELP... HELP... HELP!

TURN THAT RADIO UP, ANDRE!



CALLING FROM SAMOS CITY! CRIME RUNS WILD IN THE STREETS... HONEST PEOPLE DARE NOT RESIST ORGANIZED PLUNDER!

IT SEEMS ZE APPEAL FOR OUR HELP, BLACKHAWK! BUT STRANGE... EET EES NOT ZE USUAL CODE SIGNAL FROM ANY FRIEND OF OURS!



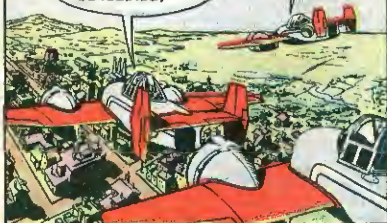
COME! COME! ONLY YOU CAN CONQUER THIS ARMY OF EVIL!

YES, STRANGE! OUR SPIES ARE ALL OVER THE WORLD... USUALLY THEY WARN US OF EMERGENCIES WHERE WE ARE NEEDED! BUT LET'S GO TO SAMOS CITY AND SEE FOR OURSELVES! PLANES, EVERYBODY!



THIS IS SAMOS CITY BELOW US! AND I GET A SIGNAL FROM THE AIRPORT RADIO, ASKING US TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES!

RADIO BACK THAT WE'RE THE BLACKHAWKS... COMING IN!



I AM BLACKHAWK! OUR RADIO PICKED UP A RATHER MYSTERIOUS APPEAL FROM SAMOS CITY...

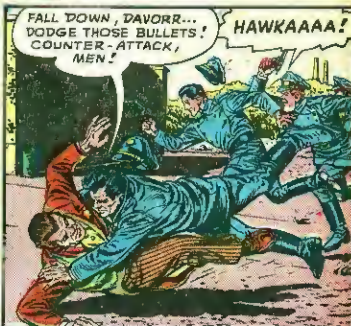
AND I SENT THAT APPEAL! MY NAME IS DAVORR, AND I AM ONE OF THE FEW HONEST CITIZENS WHO HOPE FOR RESCUE FROM OPPRESSION!

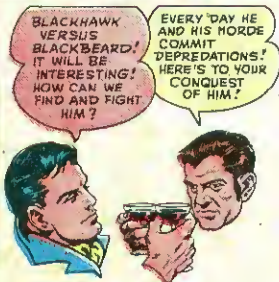
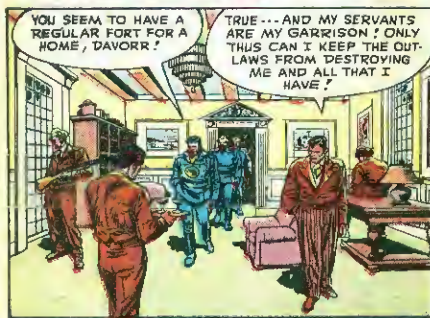


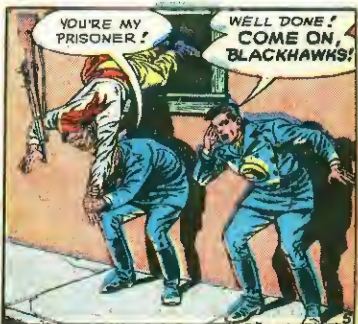
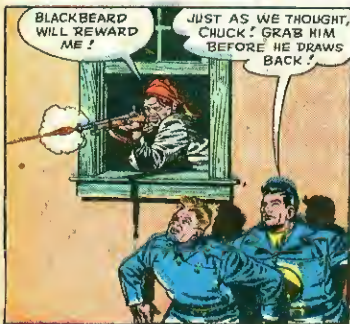
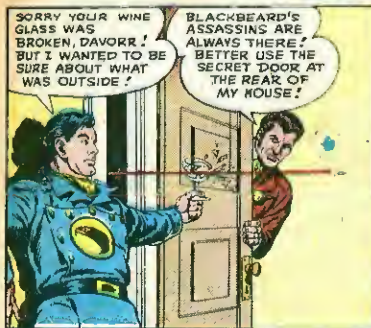
LOOK, DAVORR GREETS HIS RESCUERS! DID THE FOOL THINK WE DIDN'T TUNE IN ON HIS RADIO MESSAGE?

GIVE US THE ORDER TO CHARGE, BLACKBEARD!







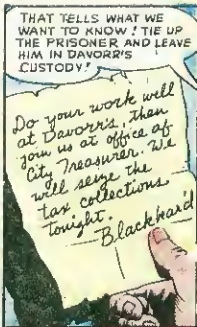




I WON'T TALK... NOT EVEN IF YOU TORTURE ME!



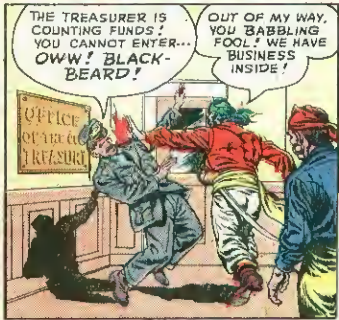
HERE'S A PAPER!



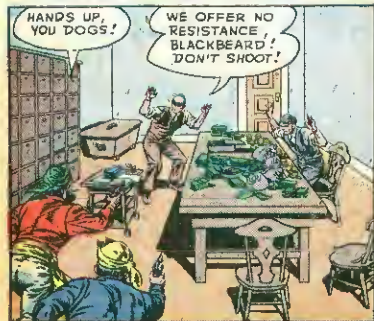
Do your work well at Davorr's, then join us at office of City Treasurer. We will seize the tax collections tonight.
Blackbeard



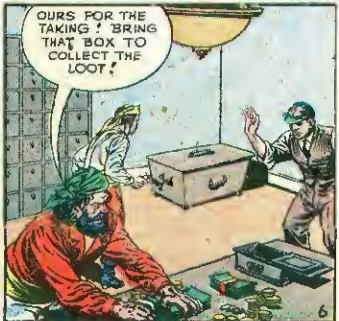
LEAD, BLACKBEARD! WE WILL FOLLOW!

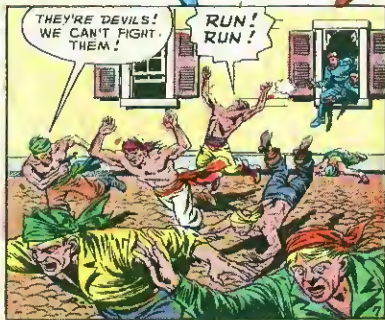


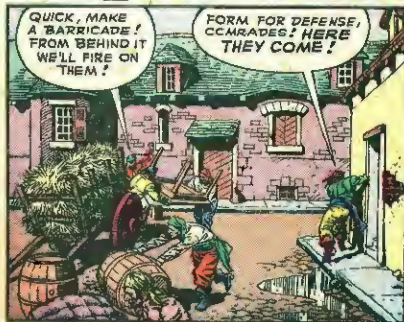
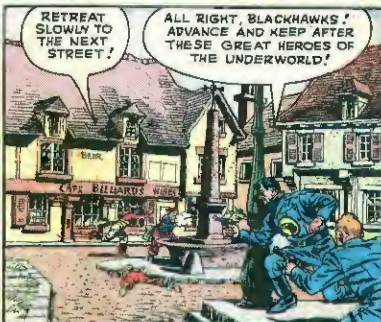
OUT OF MY WAY, YOU BABBLING FOOL! WE HAVE BUSINESS INSIDE!

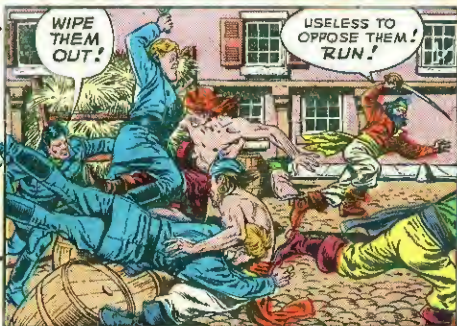
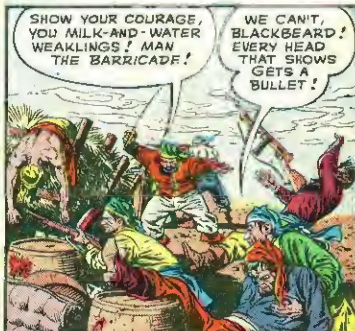
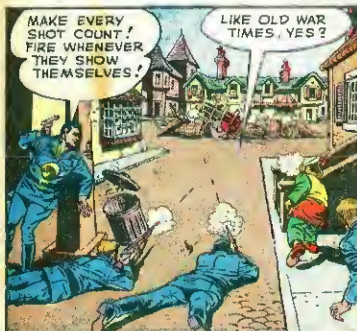


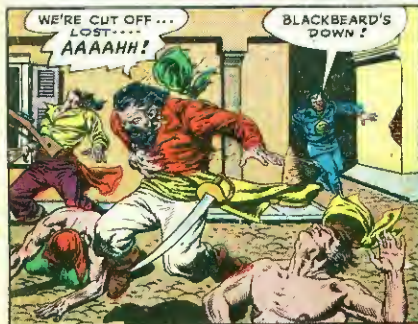
WE OFFER NO RESISTANCE, BLACKBEARD! DON'T SHOOT!











Meanwhile, at Davorr's....

THEY'LL BE DRINKING WINE AT THE RECEPTION! BRING SOME FOR ME! IT'S BEEN A TRYING DAY.... BUT A SUCCESSFUL ONE!



I DRINK THIS TOAST TO... IT WELL... LONELY TO DRINK A TOAST WITHOUT ANYONE TO JOIN YOU, DAVORR!



COME IN, BLACKHAWK! IS THE RECEPTION OVER ALREADY?



NO, IT'S STILL GOING FULL BLAST! I SLIPPED AWAY TO DISCUSS A CURIOUS MATTER WITH YOU... THE LAST WORDS OF BLACKBEARD!

HE SPOKE YOUR NAME... DAVORR! THEN SAID TRAITOR... AND DIED!

HE MEANT TO INSULT ME! BUT AN INSULT FROM SO BLACKHEARTED A SCOUNDREL IS A COMPLIMENT!



IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, DAVORR! I'VE KNOWN MANY CRIMINALS! AND THERE IS SUCH A THING AS HONOR AMONG THIEVES! HE MEANT YOU'D DOUBLE CROSSED HIM!

I DOUBLE CROSSED BLACKBEARD? WHAT POSSIBLE CONNECTION DO YOU SEE BETWEEN US?

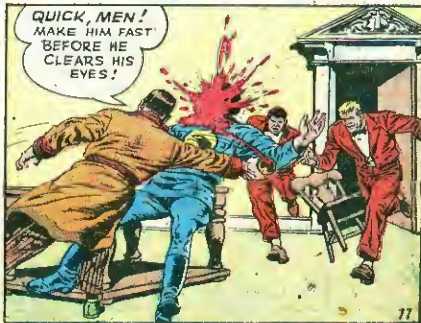


I WAS INTERESTED ENOUGH TO ASK ANOTHER DYING BANDIT! HE SAID YOU AND BLACKBEARD WERE ONCE PARTNERS! IT'S A CUT-AND-DRIED CASE OF...

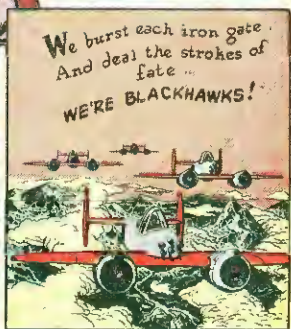
LET'S DAMPEN IT, THEN!



QUICK, MEN! MAKE HIM FAST! BEFORE HE CLEARS HIS EYES!









Will Bragg

The Big wind among blowhards



STAND BACK, EVERYBODY!

THAT'S THE BIGGEST FIRE THAT'S EVER BEEN IN THIS TOWN... AND IT WAS STARTED BY A COUPLE OF CHILDREN PLAYING!

KADUMF! ER... PARDON ME!



WELL, JONES, YOUR PLACE DOES MAKE A FINE BLAZE! BUT NOTHING LIKE WHAT I BATTLED AS FIRE CHIEF OF - ER, A TOWN, ONCE!

I WISH IT WERE BIGGER, TOO!

BRAGG! GET BACK BEHIND THE FIRE LINES!



OH! YOU'D BETTER STEP BACK AND GIVE THE FIRE ROOM TO BURN!

WAIT! BEFORE YOU GO, HAVE YOU SEEN CHIEF SWENSON?



SAY NO! I'M HOPING THAT THEY CAN'T FIND HIM!

BARDUMF! AND FRANKLY, IT'S A GOOD THING HE ISN'T HERE! EVERY TIME HE DIRECTS A FIRE HALF THE TOWN BURNS DOWN!

OH YEAH? THEN WHY'S HE STILL CHIEF?



YOU TELL ME! WHY, I'VE FORGOTTEN MORE ABOUT FIGHTING A FIRE THAN HE'LL EVER LEARN!

WELL, THEN, AS A PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZEN, I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE OVER!



IT'S JUST AN ASPHALT AND TAR FIRE -- SO BLASTED HOT THAT WE CAN'T GET CLOSER THAN FIFTY FEET TO IT!

BARDUMF! AREM! LET'S GET THESE HOSES GOING!











DOGTAG

NOT BAD! NOT
BAD! THEY'RE
ALL TRAILING
ME!

HA! HA! THEY'VE
ALL DONE FIFTY
LAPS AND THAT
DOPE IS JUST
FINISHING HIS
FIRST!



YOU ARE
MASTER
NARSON?
YES?

YEAH! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU
SHOWED UP! I HAVEN'T EVEN
SEEN YOU ONCE SINCE I HIRED
YOU THROUGH YOUR AGENT
TO DRIVE FOR
ME!

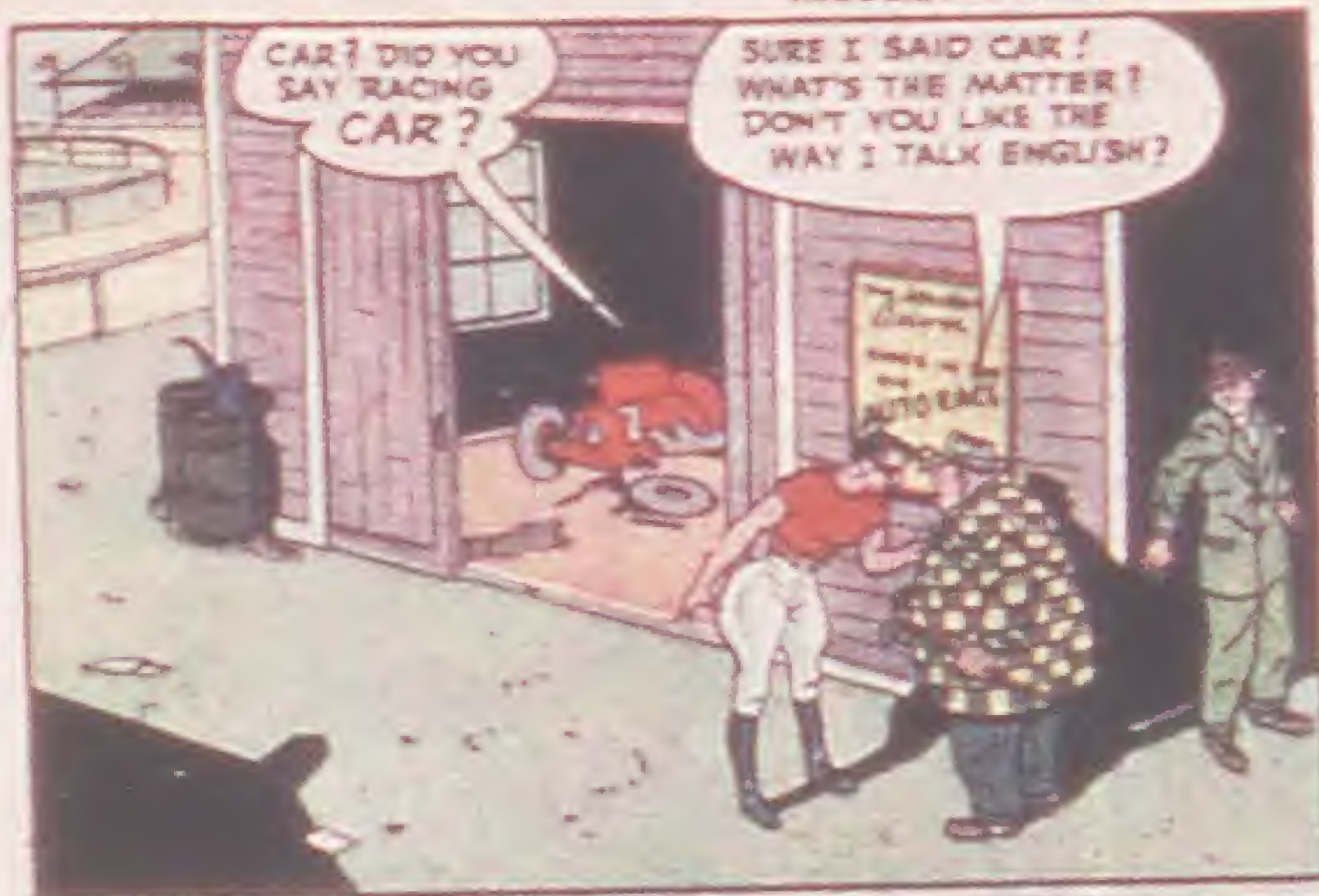
The Masked
Driver
RICKS IN THE
BIG
AUTO RACE
TODAY



NOBODY SEES
ME! I AM THE
MASKED DRIVER,
NO?

OKAY! OKAY! IT'S ALL RIGHT
WITH ME IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO LET ME KNOW
WHO YOU ARE! ALL I
CARE ABOUT IS THE
PUBLICITY I'LL GET HAVING
A MASKED DRIVER
FOR MY RACING
CAR!









As the race is about to begin....

ALL RIGHT, BOYS! TIME TO ROLL OUR CAR OUT WITH THE MASKED DRIVER!

HE'D BETTER BE GOOD, MR. NARSON! LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE BETTING HEAVILY ON HIM BECAUSE OF THE MYSTERY ABOUT HIM!



SURE, HE'LL BE GOOD! I PAID HIS AGENT PLENTY FOR HIS SERVICES, DIDN'T I?



GET IN THERE! IT'S TIME FOR THE RACE TO BEGIN!

IN THERE? YOU MEAN I CAN SIT IN IT?



SAY, THIS IS A NICE RIDE YOU'RE GIVING ME!

YEAH! AND YOU'D BETTER GIVE THIS BUS A NICE RIDE AROUND THE TRACK!



THERE THEY GO! THEY'RE OFF!

I WONDER WHAT ALL THE EXCITEMENT'S ABOUT?



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GET GOING! YOU'VE GOT TO BEAT THEM!

GOLLY! HE WANTS ME TO BEAT THEM!

AND I CAN'T EVEN DRIVE!



GOLLY! I ALMOST FORGOT THE PILL THAT MAN SOLD ME! WHAT WAS IT HE SAID? IF I EVER NEED ALL THE SPEED I CAN GET, JUST DROP IT INTO THE TANK!



WELL, I SURE NEED SPEED NOW! HERE IT GOES INTO MY TANK!



GOSH! I FEEL AS STRONG AS SAMSON! THIS CAR DOESN'T SEEM TO WEIGH ANYTHING AT ALL! THAT PILL MUST WORK MIRACLES!



WHAT THE...?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SUCH THINGS DON'T HAPPEN! HE'S GOING TO BEAT US ON FOOT... AND PULLING THE CAR, TOO!



THE WINNER!

AN UNUSUAL WAY TO HANDLE A CAR, MR. HANSON, BUT YOUR DRIVER DID IT!



HEY, WE JUST FOUND HIM IN A GARAGE! HE WAS SLUGGED!

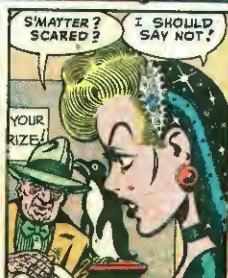
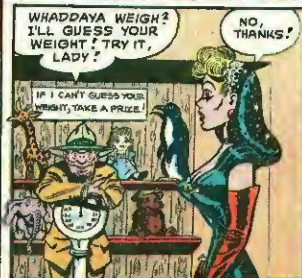
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW! THIS BOY WON, AND I'LL BET HE COULDN'T EVEN DRIVE A CAR!

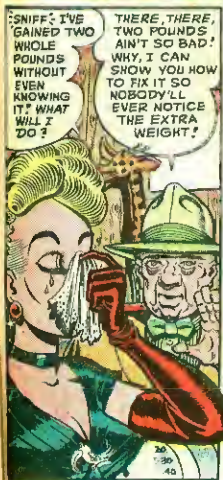
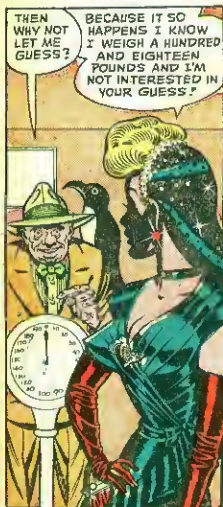
SO WHAT? DID ANYONE SAY I DRIVE ONE? YOU ASKED MY AGENT FOR A DRIVER! WELL, I HAVE DRIVEN OXEN IN FRANCE, DONKEYS IN ITALY... BUT NEVER CARS! SO I AM AS GOOD AS HE!

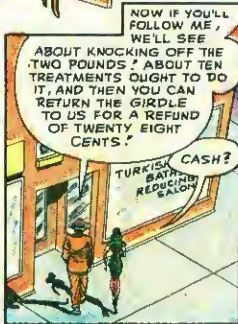
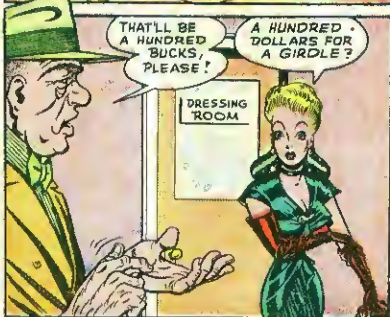
OWHH! DID YOU HEAR THAT? RUN IT OVER ME, PAL!

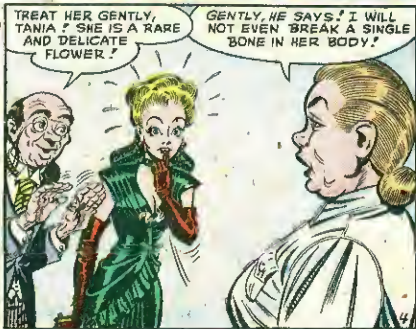
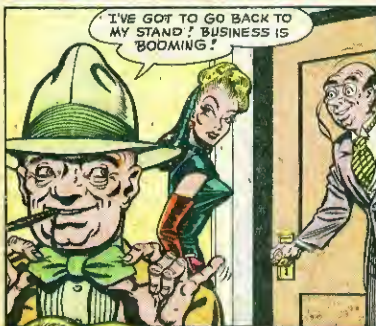


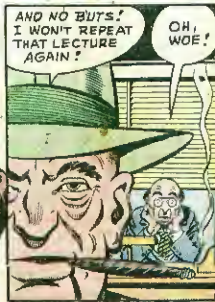
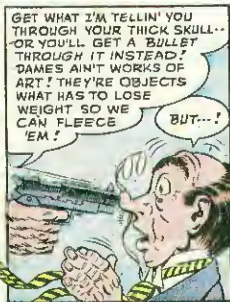
Torchy

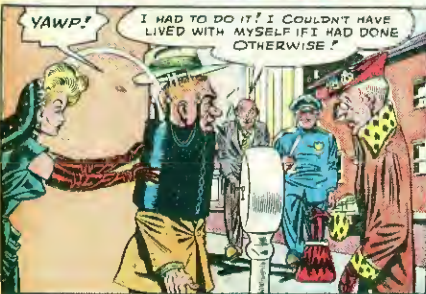
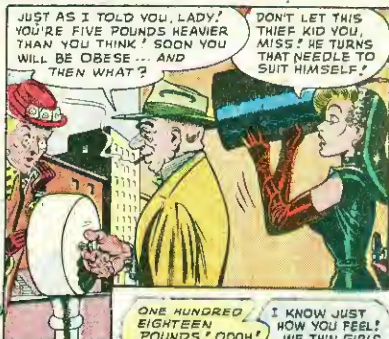








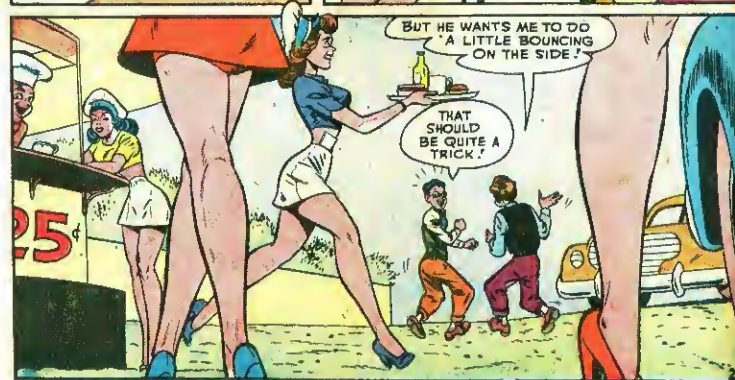
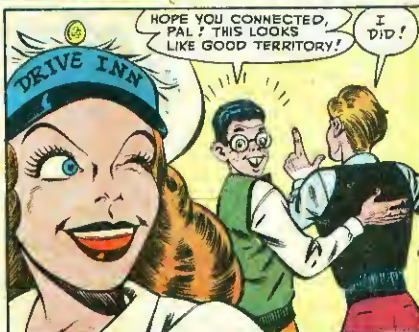
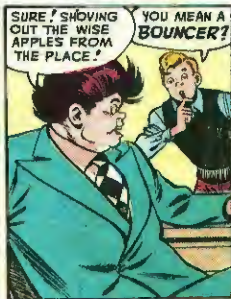


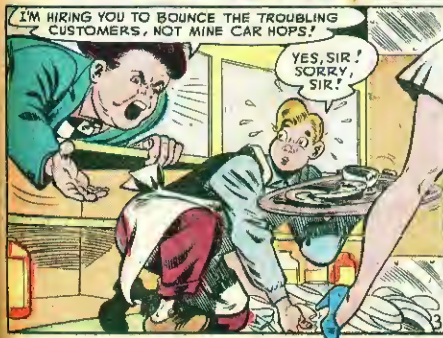
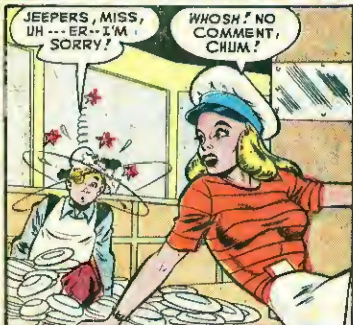


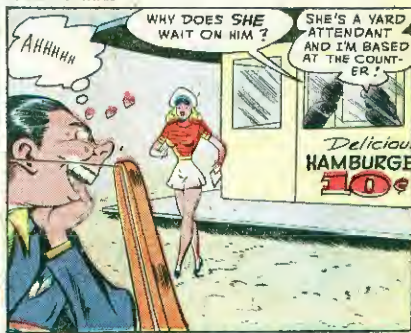


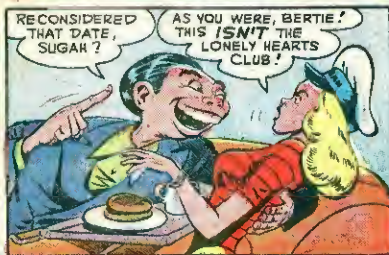
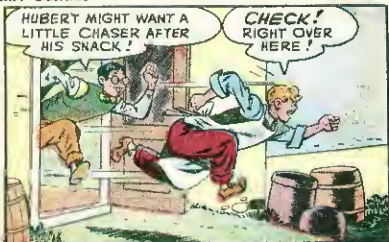
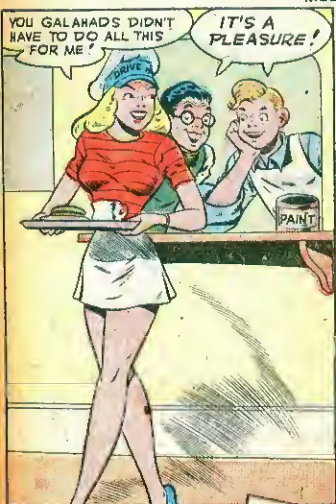
EZRA

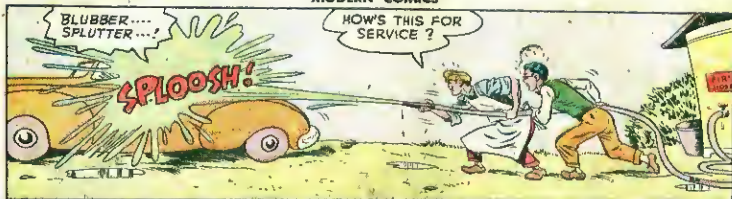




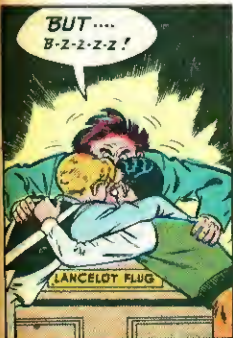








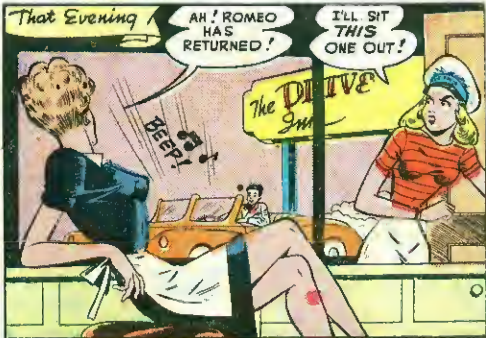
BUT
B-Z-Z-Z-Z!



That Evening

AH! ROMEO
HAS
RETURNED!

I'LL SIT
THIS
ONE OUT!



HMMM! MUST'VE THROWN A
SCARE INTO OLE' FLUG!
NOW I GET TWO
PEACHES!



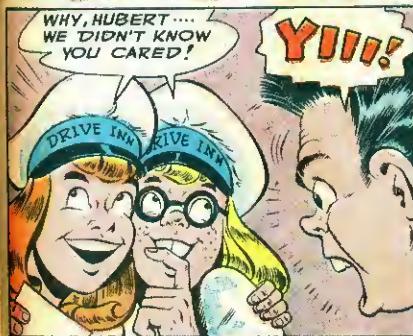
AHEM! EITHER OF
YOU APPLE HONEYS
LIKE A DATE
TONIGHT?

The DR
Inn



WHY, HUBERT
WE DIDN'T KNOW
YOU CARED!

YIIII!



HA! HA!
HO! HO!

I AM FIRING ONE
BUS BOY, HIRING
TWO WAITERMAN,
AND BOUNCING
ONE CUSTOMER!



The Flying DISKS

A PILOT had reported seeing the shiny saucer-shaped disks sailing across the state of Washington. They had flown in a rather erratic, fluttery manner, totally unlike any aircraft he had ever seen. He had clocked their speed at 1200 miles an hour, which was far above that of any but special test planes.

"They must be jet planes," the government said.

"Can't be," said the pilot. "I know jet jobs when I see 'em."

The newspapers picked up the story and made a nine days' wonder of it. Then to back up the pilot's report, several others stepped into the picture. They all said they had seen the shiny disks, just as the pilot had. He had been getting plenty of ribbing from his pals.

"There, what'd I tell you?" he demanded of the skeptics. "Others saw 'em!"

The Army played the story down. So did the Navy. But the fact remained that a score of people in a certain Washington area had seen several shiny disks flying eastward across the mountains.

"What do you think of it?" asked Chuck, the American member of the famed Blackhawk organization. "Sounds like one of those science fiction yarns."

"I don't know," said Blackhawk slowly. "I never like to make a statement on these things, not until I know more."

"'Flying Saucers,' huh!" snorted Olaf. "I read about such things when I'm a boy—only they are dreams."

Hendrickson chuckled deeply. "What are dreams but plans of future things, Olaf? Wasn't the submarine at first a dream and the first flying machine?"

Andre put in his nickel's worth. "I believe that pilot. I think he saw exactly what he reported. I don't know what they were, but I believe it."

Blackhawk grinned. "Playing safe, eh, Andre?"

"That's me," said Andre, grinning. "Play safe whether you're flying or battling the breeze at the hangar!"

Blackhawk nodded as if to himself. "Well," he said, "we're supposed to find out what they were, where they came from and where they went. You recall no one saw where they disappeared to. We have a job, boys."

"I read a book once," said Stanislaus, "about trick flying saucers that came from Mars. Maybe these are them, huh?"

Everybody laughed.

That night, Blackhawk and his famous seven crew men flew high over the Northwest. Several very secret instruments were beamed to the earth, where their rays would pick up anything remotely resembling the shiny flying disks.

Blackhawk cruised the big ship back and forth over the states of Washington, Idaho, Utah and Oregon—even into Montana. But the instruments remained mute.

"Well, if they exist," said Blackhawk, "they must have gone away. We can pick up nothing."

It was then that Chuck, at the radio, held up a hand for silence. "Something coming in."

Chuck, with headphones, bent nearer the set. After a moment he took them off and looked up.

"A flight of thirteen strange looking planes spotted flying over western Kansas at nine tonight," he said. "Message came from the pilot of an airliner."

Blackhawk nodded. "Then to Kansas we'll go. Ought to be there in a couple hours. Wish some pilot could keep those things tailed."

They were over western Kansas in good time. But the flight proved nothing. The mysterious thirteen had gone. They flew westward, covering four or five states, but when dawn came they had learned nothing.

"Where do they hide?" asked Chuck.

"Mebbe so saucer plane go up—up." Chop Chop made motions to back up his statement.

"Yeah," said Chuck. "How about that, Blackhawk? Suppose they're stratosphere crates of some kind?"

Blackhawk said he doubted it, but they'd give the great void far above a try.

For two days and nights the big Blackhawk plane cruised the upper reaches of the skies, but they discovered nothing.

Then a flash from Washington sent the hunting racing east. The saucers had been seen flitting over the country's capital, over Baltimore and Frederick and points west.

By this time, Blackhawk had come to the

conclusion that the flying saucers were either the products of mass imagination (hadn't the newspapers of the entire nation played them up?) or someone was playing a fine prank.

"Frankly," said Blackhawk, "I think it's a prank. I think some clever engineer has hit upon a positive insulation against locator beams, and is leading us on. For what purpose, however, I have no idea."

Grinning, Chop Chop said, "Flying mans makee jokee?"

"Yes," Blackhawk replied. "But I'll wager we'll soon have the answer."

In a protected valley of the Blue Ridge, a group of shiny disks dotted the green floor. Moving about them were a score of men, flyers and mechanics. Several green tents were also present. In one of these sat a young man before a radio-telephone set. He was in contact with a big metropolitan newspaper editor.

"We are ready now to make public the secret of the flying disks," said the young man into the transmitter. "We feel that we've fooled everybody long enough. We did, however, have a logical reason for carrying on the little farce. In the face of much skepticism along aeronautical lines, we decided that the old adage, 'the proof of the pudding' applied in this instance."

The young man flipped the switch of his instrument to 'Receiving.'

"Where are you now?" came the voice of the radio editor of the newspaper. "And who are you?"

The young man chuckled. "You'd be surprised at the answers to both questions," he said. "The Army and Navy have been trying to find us, but of course they can't—unless we want them to, thanks to our revolutionary insulation system: radar can't spot us." He cut off.

In three minutes, the group of shiny disks

were in the air and whisking away across the mountains to the westward. And it was well they did because a flock of Navy fighters came pouncing over the ridge in their wake. The radiophone had tipped off their location.

The Navy planes searched the area, spread out, and went in giant circles. They found nothing.

Bafflement gripped the officials. Who and what were these mysterious flying disks?

Blackhawk sat at the controls of his big ship, with a whimsical smile. He too had been listening to the two-way conversation between the captain of the disk fleet and the newspaper editor.

He said, "What would be the value of a plane that could fly through enemy territory without tipping off its location?"

Chuck gulped. "Value? Gosh, the country that had such planes would be invincible, wouldn't it?"

Blackhawk continued to smile. "I don't know about that," he said, "but I believe that country would hold the whip-hand because of other nations' fear of such a mysterious craft. Well, boys, that's the idea behind the flying disks. Really, there is nothing so involved behind their construction."

"Say," said Chuck, "you talk like you know more than you're letting on. Give, Chief!"

Blackhawk grinned. "I do, Chuck. I ordered those disks built—secretly, and plotted the little mystery play they have followed. The government is now interested. Come on, we'll go down and have a look at them."

"You mean," gasped the American, "that they—"

"Are right below us," said Blackhawk. "They are merely helicopters with insulating disks over their rotors. See—down there they are, waiting for us!"

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 21, 1912, MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1948 OF MODERN COMICS published monthly at Buffalo, N. Y. for October 1, 1947.

Name of Owner(s) }
County of Fairhield }

Before me, a notary public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Everett M. Arnold, who, having been duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the Publisher of the MODERN COMICS and that the following is to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc. of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 21, 1912, as amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933 and July 2, 1948 (Section 367, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Editor, Eugene E. Bremer, 35 West 43rd St., New York, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Homer Business Manager, Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.

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EVERETT M. ARNOLD, Publisher.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of September, 1947.
LOUIS J. KUBANSKY, Notary Public. (Commission expires April 1, 1949.)

CHOO CHOO

THE CIRCUS IS STILL SERVING THE SAME OLD BALLYHOO! SAVAGE, MAN-EATING ANIMALS STRAIGHT FROM THE JUNGLES... PSHAW! WHY HALF THESE WILD-LOOKING BEASTS ARE NOTHING BUT CLOWNS DRESSED UP IN FURS!

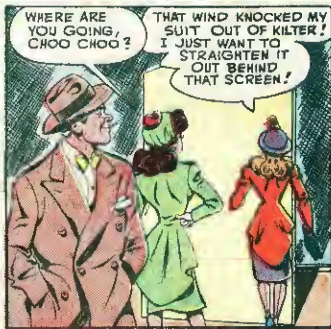
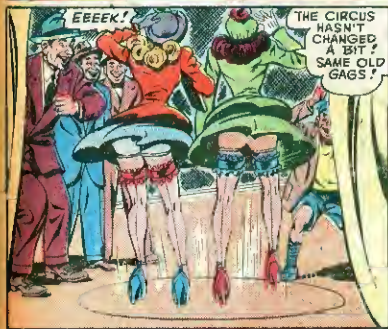
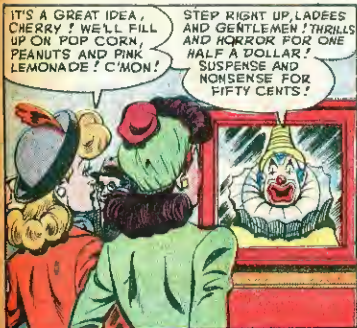
ULP! OH YEAH? B... BARNUM WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A S-SUCKER B--BORN EVERY M-MINUTE! AND Y-YOURE IT!



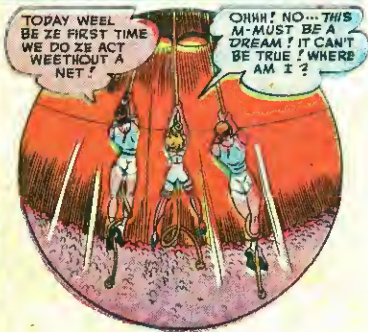
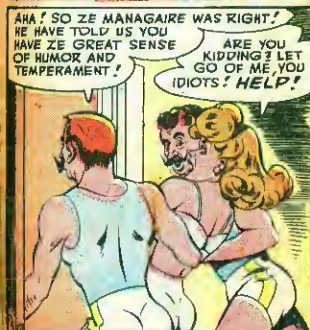
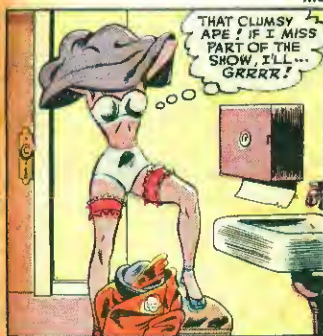
G-GOSH, CHERRY! ISN'T IT THRILLING?

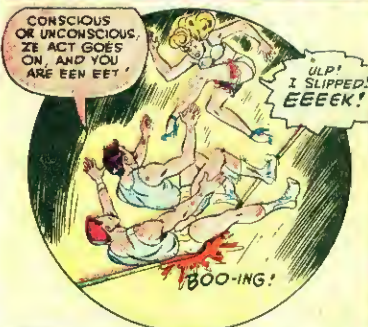
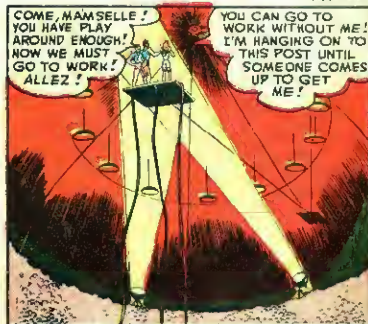
I GUESS WE'RE STILL KIDS AT HEART, CHOO CHOO! WHY DON'T WE LET OUR HAIR DOWN AND SPEND THE DAY AT THE CIRCUS, HUH?

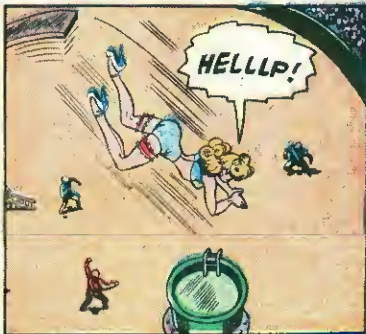
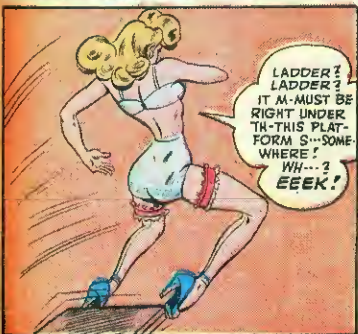
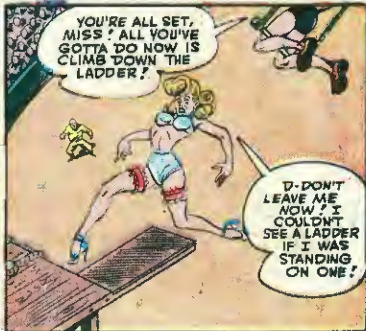
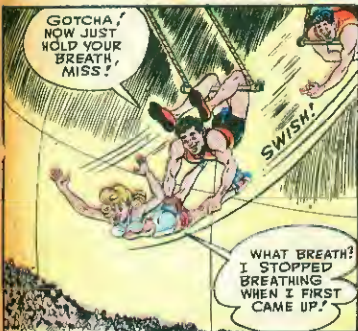












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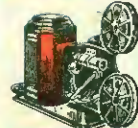


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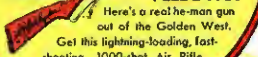


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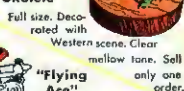
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